

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method of producing a fluoropolymer by which a melt-processable fluoropolymer (A) having a specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) is subjected to melt-kneading in a kneader comprising a stabilization treatment zone to thereby produce a fluoropolymer (B) resulting from conversion of said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) to -CF₂H,

 said specific unstable terminal group or groups (P) comprising alkoxy carbonyl groups, fluoroalkoxy carbonyl groups and/or carboxyl group quaternary nitrogen compound salts,

 the melt-kneading being carried out in the absence or presence of an alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element,

 the mass-content of said alkali metal element or alkaline earth metal element being not greater than 2 ppm of the composition under melt-kneading, and

 the melt-kneading in said stabilization treatment zone being carried out in the presence of water.

2. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1, wherein the melt-kneading in the stabilization treatment zone is carried out in the presence of oxygen gas.

3. (previously presented): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to

Claim 1,

wherein the kneader is a screw-type extruder.

4. (original): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 3,

wherein the screw-type extruder is a twin-screw extruder.

5. (previously presented): The method of producing a fluoropolymer according to

Claim 1,

wherein the temperature in the stabilization treatment zone is set at 280 to 430°C.

6. (currently amended): A fluoropolymer obtained by the method of producing a fluoropolymer according to Claim 1.

7. (currently amended): A fluoro-polymerised material comprising a fluoropolymer, wherein said fluoropolymer comprises (1) a fluorocopolymer derived from at least one fluoromonomer selected from the group consisting of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, vinylidene fluoride and chlorotrifluoroethylene, (2) a chlorotrifluoroethylene homopolymer and/or (3) a vinylidene fluoride homopolymer,

said fluorocopolymer is one resulting from polymerization of a perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) and/or ethylene or one not resulting from such polymerization,

said fluoropolymer is one of which polymer terminal groups are -CF₂H and not more than 20 unstable terminal groups (Q) per 10⁶ carbon atoms,

said fluoro-polymerised material contains or does not contain a metal residue containing an alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element, and

the mass-content of said alkali metal element and/or alkaline earth metal element is not greater than 2 ppm of said fluoro-polymerised material.

8. (original): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 7, wherein the fluoropolymer is a product obtained by emulsion polymerization.
9. (previously presented): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 7, wherein the fluoropolymer is a fluorocopolymer derived from tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene.
10. (original): The fluoro-polymerised material according to Claim 9, wherein the fluorocopolymer derived from tetrafluoroethylene and hexafluoropropylene is a fluorocopolymer having a tetrafluoroethylene unit content of 75 to 95% by mass, a hexafluoropropylene unit content of 5 to 20% by mass and a perfluoro(alkyl vinyl ether) unit content of 0 to 5% by mass.